

HOUSE to HOUSE Heart to Heart



“...from house to house ...with gladness and singleness of heart...” (Acts 2:46).

A publication of the... churches of CHRIST

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18
Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5
Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2
Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22
Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23
Elders oversee local church –
Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5
Deacons as servants –
Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13
Members compose body –
Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15
Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23
Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16
Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8
Saints – Rm. 1:7
Brethren – Lk. 8:21
Children of God – Gal. 4:26
Christian – Acts 11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible – Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing – Eph. 5:19
Pray – Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17
Teach – Acts 5:42
Communion – 1 Cor. 1:23-26
Contribute – 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

If you have questions or comments please contact
us via email at: info@housetohouse.com

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**Blessed is the
nation whose
God is the Lord;
and the people
whom he hath
chosen for
his own
inheritance.**

–Psalm 33:12



SIMON SAYS

ALLEN WEBSTER

PLEASE READ LUKE 7:36-50

Jesus had an unusual lunch one day with a Pharisee named Simon (Lk. 7:36-50). During the course of the meal, a prostitute¹ came into the courtyard and approached Jesus. Since their custom was to remove sandals and recline on pillows while eating, when she came up behind Him, she stood over His bare feet. Evidently overwhelmed with joy (at the thought of turning her life around), she began to weep. Her tears fell onto His feet. She noticed that they had not been washed by the host (a common custom), so she knelt beside him and began to wipe His feet clean with the hairs of her head (*picture this!*). While she bathed His feet with her tears, she began to kiss them (*picture this!*), expressing gratitude for what He had done.²

All this, as you might imagine, was quite embarrassing to Simon! Under normal circumstances he would not even walk on the same street with this woman. Now she's on his property, affectionately greeting his Guest...what should he do? How can he graciously handle this situation? Why was Jesus letting her do this?

Simon used the circumstances to form an opinion about the validity of Jesus' claim to be a prophet. He figured no true prophet would allow such a woman to touch him, so He either did not know what kind of woman she was (thus lacking a prophet's discernment) or knew and did not care (thus lacking a prophet's holiness). Simon's conclusion: Either way, Jesus was no prophet.

Of course Simon did not verbalize these thoughts to his Guest, but the whole time Simon was reasoning this out, Jesus was reading his mind. Simon "said" more than he meant to that day. In fact, Simon still "says" a lot today.

Simon says, "Pretend you're not a sinner." It was too bad that this woman had fallen into sin, but it was even worse that Simon was living in sin *and did not know it*. In the Sermon on the Mount (Mt. 5-7) and in Matthew 23, Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for self-righteousness and an unwillingness to admit sin. The Pharisee in one of Jesus' parables (typical of many Pharisees) felt that God was his debtor, rather than the other way around (Lk. 18:10,11). This "holier than thou" attitude was repulsive to Jesus—and it is repulsive to people today.

It is interesting to note that those who walked closest to God often saw their sinfulness the clearest. Abraham considered himself "but dust and ashes" (Gen. 18:27). God confessed Job to be "perfect and upright" (Job 1:1), yet Job confessed to God, "Behold, I am vile" (40:4). Ezra prayed, "O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face" (9:6). Peter fell to his knees and begged the Lord, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man" (Lk. 5:8), and when John saw the glorified Christ, he fell at His feet as a dead man (Rev. 1:17). Paul, the chief of missionaries, called himself the chief of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15).

Jesus told Simon a little story to help him see his condition: "There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both." (Lk. 7:41,42). In the ensuing discussion, Jesus made the point that all men are sinners *whether they feel guilty or not*. Both of the men were in debt and bankrupt. The difference between 500 pence and 50

pence is not a difference in guilt. The two amounts represent a difference in their *sense of guilt*. The woman was not more lost than the Pharisee. How much sin does a person have to commit in order to be a sinner? Ten sins or a hundred? James said, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (2:10). Interestingly, the prostitute was actually better than the Pharisee because she would admit and turn from her sin. "*Simon says*" *pretend you don't have any sins, and they will go away (but Simon is wrong)*.

Simon says, "Pretend a sin's not a sin unless you do it." Simon knew what the woman had done, but forgot what he had *not done*. She was guilty of sins of commission; he was guilty of sins of omission. She had done wrong; he had failed to do right. He had not even shown Jesus common courtesy—the kiss of welcome, water for His feet, and oil for His head (cf. Gen. 18:1-8). Many will find themselves on the defensive at the Judgment Day, not for what they did, but for what they did *not* do. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (Jas. 4:17). One who does not do what God requires is as guilty as the one who does what God forbids. "*Simon says*" *ignoring God's commands is better than breaking them (but Simon is wrong)*.

Simon says, "Act like the other fellow's sins are worse than yours." The woman had been guilty, evidently, of blatant sexual sins (cf. 2 Cor. 7:1; Gal. 5:19-21). She was a sinner. Simon knew it; she knew it; Jesus knew it; everybody knew it. Simon, too, was a sinner, only he didn't know it. He was not guilty of immorality, but of sins of attitude (unfair judging, for instance, Mt. 7:1,2). The Pharisees practiced "respectable sins" like hypocrisy and pride (Mt. 23:23; 12:24-34). They condemned others to exalt themselves. They were covetous (Lk. 16:14), not only of money, but of prestige and praise. They practiced their religion only to be seen of men (Mt. 6:5; 23:5). Such sins wouldn't keep you out of polite company, but they would keep you out of heaven. These sins most likely won't cause the church to withdraw fellowship from you (1 Cor. 5), but they will cause God to withhold His hand of mercy. *Simon says sins of the flesh are worse than sins of the spirit (but Simon is wrong)*.

Simon says, "Don't worry about the sins that nobody knows about." To Simon, open sins were worse than hidden sins. If nobody knows about it, then don't sweat it. Everyone at the feast knew who the woman was and what she had done. Her sins were open. But only Jesus (who can read hearts, Jn. 2:25) knew Simon's. Simon was conscious of no need, felt no love, and so received no forgiveness. His impression of himself was that he was a good man in the sight of God and men. The woman was conscious of nothing else than an immediate need for forgiveness. The Pharisee, who sought no forgiveness, obtained what he sought. *Simon says that if it's hidden, it's covered (but Simon is wrong)*.

Don't play with Simon, he'll get you in trouble. ❖

Endnotes: ¹*harmartolos*, sinner, "a notoriously bad woman." ²The Greek verb tense indicates she had already been forgiven (v. 48).

THINK ON GOOD THINGS

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

I WISH YOU ENOUGH



Recently while I was waiting for a flight, I overheard a father and daughter in their last moments together. They had announced her flight's departure, and standing near the security gate, they hugged, and he said, "I love you. I wish you enough."

She in turn said, "Daddy, our life together has been more than enough. Your love is all I ever

needed. I wish you enough, too, Daddy."

They kissed, and she left. He walked over toward the window where I was seated. Standing there I could see he wanted to cry. I tried not to intrude on his privacy, but he welcomed me in by asking, "Did you ever say goodbye to someone knowing it would be forever?"

"Yes, I have," I replied. Saying that brought back memories of expressing my love and appreciation for all my Dad had done for me. Recognizing that his days were limited, I took the time to tell him face to face how much he meant to me. So I knew what this man was experiencing.

"Forgive me for asking, but why is this a forever goodbye?" I asked. "I am old, and she lives far away. I have challenges ahead, and the reality is, her next trip back will be for my funeral," he said.

"When you were saying goodbye, I heard you say, 'I wish you enough.' May I ask what that means? He began to smile. "That's a wish that has been handed down from other generations. My parents used to say it to everyone." He paused for a moment, and looking up as if trying to remember it in detail, he smiled again. "When we said, 'I wish you enough,' we were wanting the other person to have a life filled with just enough good things to sustain them," he continued and then turning toward me, he shared the following as if he were reciting it from memory:

- ▶ "I wish you enough sun to keep your attitude bright.
- ▶ I wish you enough rain to appreciate the sun more.
- ▶ I wish you enough happiness to keep your spirit alive.
- ▶ I wish you enough pain so that the smallest joys in life appear much bigger.
- ▶ I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
- ▶ I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
- ▶ I wish you enough 'Hello' to get you through the final 'Goodbyes.'"

As he walked away, I wished him enough.

When asked why he did not give his son more early encouragement, Leonard Bernstein's father answered, "How was I to know he would grow up to be Leonard Bernstein?" —*Reader's Digest*, Aug.



SOME ADVANTAGES OF BEING A CHRISTIAN

The greatest challenge one can face is living the Christian life in preparation for an eternity with God. Nothing is more thrilling than living for the Lord Christ. There is no joy or happiness greater than the happiness, peace, and contentment found in living for Christ.



ADVANTAGE #1: THE CHRISTIAN KNOWS THE LOVE OF GOD.

The love of God is beyond description! "For God so loved the world... (John 3:16). It was by the love of God that Jesus "tasted death for every man" (Heb. 2:9). There could be no greater love than laying down His life for us (John 15:14). When we were undeserving, unloving, and condemned, God demonstrated the greatest love as He sent His Son to die for us (Rm. 5:6-10). As we obey God, we express our love for what God has done for us. As God's children, we experience a divine Father's personal love. God providentially provides for His own (Rm. 8:28)!

ADVANTAGE #2: THE CHRISTIAN ENJOYS FORGIVENESS.

The burden and guilt of sin can become too much to bear. But the Christian has forgiveness! "In who we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Eph. 1:7). Jesus really meant it when He said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mark 16:16). The Christian can know that his "sins and iniquities are remembered no more" (Heb. 8:12). When we come to Christ in obedience to His teachings we have forgiveness of sins.

ADVANTAGE #3: THE CHRISTIAN CAN PRAY TO GOD AS HIS FATHER.

As Christians we can pray with confidence that God will hear and answer. When we pray to "our Father in heaven" (Mt. 6:9), we can know that He will answer what is offered in accordance to His will. We can come boldly before His throne knowing that we will receive strength, mercy, and grace to help in those difficult times in life (Heb. 4:16).

DON'T YOU WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN? These three advantages alone are enough—although there are many more. Don't you want to know the love of God? The forgiveness of sins? To be able to pray to God? Then become a Christian. If this should be the day and hour that death would come to you, are you prepared? You can only enjoy the blessings of Christianity by having Jesus as Lord and Savior in your life. To be saved you must believe in Jesus (Jn. 8:24), repent of sins (2 Peter 3:9), confess faith in Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized in obedience to his commands (1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:38). After your baptism you must live and work as a faithful servant in the Lord's family (Rev. 2:10). Don't miss out on the best life—and heaven thrown in! —Charles Box

EVERYONE NEEDS IT

Mary Lincoln was the owner of a small box that contained the contents of her grandfather's pockets from the night he was assassinated. These effects were not publicly known until they came into possession of the Library of Congress. One of the items in the pocket of Abraham Lincoln on the occasion of his death was a letter to the editor praising Lincoln for his singleness of purpose. Everyone needs encouragement, even presidents as great as Lincoln.

—*Leadership*, June 8, 1994, p. 1-2

"...encourage him..." — Deuteronomy 1:38



The
HOMIE
PAGE

Compiled by Wade Webster

Give Teens Confidence

Abstinence is regaining ground, though many still laugh at the concept. Those who snicker should read an important report from Atlanta. Marion Howard, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Emory University, asked one thousand teenage girls in Atlanta what they wanted to learn in sex education. Eighty-four percent answered, "How to say no without hurting the other person's feelings." Some feel sex education only involves teaching kids how to have safe sex. Dr. Howard's report indicates a majority of teenage girls are interested in learning how to have no sex.

—*U.S. News & World Report*, June 20, 1994, p. 24

The Longest Line?

Dr. Ruth Berenda and fellow psychologists rediscovered the dramatic power of societal pressure. They invited ten teenagers into a room where three charts were displayed. Each chart had three lines of different lengths. They were asked to raise their hands when the teacher pointed to the longest line on each chart. One teen in each group did not know that the other nine had been instructed to raise their hands when the teacher pointed to the second longest line. The lone teen frequently looked somewhat confused but cast a wrong vote with the other nine students. Dr. Berenda's data revealed that 75 percent of teens allowed peer pressure to override their own better judgment. We all need the affirmation to choose what is right rather than what is popular.

—*Quips, Quotes, and Other Notes*

Role Models

The pollsters at Gallup learned that among 13-to-17-year-olds, 51 percent do not have an adult role model. The other 49 percent were more likely to cite their parents rather than sports stars or entertainers as the adult role model(s) they hope to emulate. The void of heroes can and should be filled by parents.

"My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways" —Proverbs 23:26

Family First

USA Weekend (Jan. 13, 1995, p. 22) ran a cover story about Anna Quindlen. She was working on the fast track with *The New York Times* when she made the decision to leave the office and stay home with her children. She now enjoys the life of a full-time mom and utilizes her professional skills by writing novels from her home. The feature article contained a question for readers to answer through a phone survey. To the question, "Would you take a job demotion and/or pay cut in exchange for more family or personal time?" Ninety-six percent said yes. Only 4 percent voted no. Once again, an indicator points toward the resurging priority of family.

Recent statistics reveal that the one-paycheck family with the father working and the mother staying at home is the fastest-growing type of household in America. This shift is occurring among women between the ages of twenty and twenty-four who grew up with both parents working. Trends like this reveal the renewed priority parents are placing on raising their children at home even if it means greater financial sacrifice.

—*Church Around the World*

"...teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" —Titus 2:4,5

The Power of Love

A six-year-old girl became deathly ill and needed a blood transfusion. When her rare blood type complicated the problem, her nine-year-old brother was tested as a donor. Though he qualified, everyone was hesitant to ask him because of his age. When no other donor was found, they talked to him about it. He didn't understand all that they were saying, but said, "Sure, I'll give my blood for my sister." When the transfusion began, he took the needle in his arm, closed his eyes and lay silently on the bed. After it was completed, the doctors thanked the brother for saving his sister's life. The brave little boy began to cry. He asked, "Doctor, when do I die?" The doctor understood the magnitude of what this boy had done and quickly reassured him that he would not die. He was amazed at the boy's courage and asked, "Why were you willing to risk your life for her?" He said, simply, "Because she is my sister...and I love her."

"Let brotherly love continue" —Hebrews 13:1

The Power of Love (II)

In March of 1991, Lisa Landry Childress (daughter of Tom Landry) found out she had a malignant tumor on her liver. This was just two months after she and her husband, Gary, had learned she was pregnant. The doctors counseled her to undergo an abortion so she could begin immediate chemotherapy. She rejected the thought of abortion, even though it meant she would most certainly die. She and her husband had for years tried to have a baby. On December 20, 1991, after the baby was born, Mrs. Childress said, "This baby was a blessing; a gift to me. It wasn't my right to deny this gift." She lived three years and nine months after receiving a liver transplant, but the legacy of her love and sacrificial gift of life will live forever. Jesus said, "Love one another, even as I have loved you" (John 14:34-35). —Jack Graham

Related?

A husband and his wife were not talking. From Friday to Sunday they told their children, "Go tell your mother... go tell your father."

They acted like nothing was wrong. The children went home with someone else. As the couple rode along together, they went for a ride in the country and passed a stubborn mule. He asked, "Is that some of your kinfolks?" "Yes," she replied, "By marriage." Stubbornness is bad for marriage. The closer two get to Jesus, the closer they get to be to each other.

"...go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend" —Proverbs 6:3



IS ANGER ALWAYS WRONG? CAN IT BE CONTROLLED?



Anger is a destructive emotion that has led to every kind of sin, including murder, as when Cain killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4:4-8). The elder brother of the "prodigal son" refused to go to the party for his brother because "he was angry, and would not go in" (Lk. 15:28). Paul wrote "Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Eph. 4:26). It is possible to be angry without sinning, but very difficult.

As Jesus saw the moneychangers cheating His people in the temple, He made a scourge of small cords, and drove them out of the temple, saying, "Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise" (Jn. 2:16). Undoubtedly Jesus was angry. He acted out of "righteous indignation." He was angry, but He did not sin because He was zealous for the glory of God. The child of God ought to be angry when the glory of God is challenged, and it is a great tragedy for Christians to be so tolerant that nothing makes them angry.

James gives a simple prescription for dealing with anger: "Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God" (1:19-20).

To be "swift to hear" means to be a ready listener. All too often we become easily angered because we do not have enough information. When a person really listens to another person, sometimes even "reading between the lines," he may find that what would have otherwise provoked a reaction of anger may instead provoke a reaction of concern or pity. A reaction of anger is often simply a reaction out of emotion. If one listens to discern all the facts, he can deal with the problem rationally.

To be "slow to speak" means to control the tongue, which is a very difficult task. James himself said, "Every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (3:7-8). Solomon said, "Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him" (Prov. 29:20). Hasty words spoken in anger will almost always be regretted.

To be "slow to wrath" is also difficult. The old adage of counting to ten works on this principle. If one realizes that he is becoming angry, he can slow the process. Prayer is helpful in this area, as well as the realization that each person controls his own reaction to a problem. One can choose to be angry in dealing with a problem, or he can choose to cope with a problem without anger.

The "new man" in Christ lays aside worldly anger. "Put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him...but Christ is all, and in all" (Col. 3:8-11).

—Bob Prichard, P. O. Box 532, Morristown, TN 37815

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

A HAIRY DEAL

Hints: Gen. 25:25; 2 Sam. 14:26; 1 Cor. 11:15; Num. 6:5; 1 Sam. 12:2; Mt. 10:30; 2 Sam. 18:9

1. What man is known as the Bible's "hairy man?" _____
2. What king had a son who cut his hair only once a year? _____
3. According to Paul, hair was given to a woman for a _____.
4. What type of vow prohibited cutting the hair? _____
5. What color of hair was a sign of old age? _____
6. God keeps up with the _____ of hairs on His children's heads.
7. What rebel was killed when his hair caught in a tree? _____

CURSES, CURSES

Hints: Gal. 3:10; 1:8; 3:13; Lev. 19:14; Job 2:9; Mal. 4:6; Jas. 3:10; Acts 23:12; Job 1:11; 2:5; Ecc. 10:20

1. Why did some Jews remain under a curse? _____
2. Who said that people who taught a false gospel would be cursed? _____
3. Who was made a curse for our sins? _____
4. What sort of handicapped people should we not curse? _____
5. Who was told by his wife to curse God and die? _____
6. What prophet ended his book with God's threat to come and strike the land with a curse? _____
7. What epistle says that blessing and cursing should not come out of the same mouth? _____
8. Who had enemies that bound themselves under a curse because they were so determined to kill him? _____
9. Who told God that Job would curse him to his face? _____
10. What will tell on someone who curses a king? _____

WHO ASKED GOD?

Hints: Hab. 1:1-3; Jer. 15:18; 1 Sam. 23:1-2; Gen. 4:9; 20:4; 18:25; Ex. 3:10-11; Ezek. 11:13; Job 40:3-4; Gen. 15:7-8

1. "Why dost thou show me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance?" _____
2. "Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable?" _____
3. "Shall I go and smite these Philistines?" _____
4. "Am I my brother's keeper?" _____
5. "Lord, wilt thou slay also a righteous nation?" _____
6. "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" _____
7. "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?" _____
8. "All, Lord God, wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel?" _____



Answers to last issue: JESUS: 1. Virgin (Isa. 7:14); 2. Joseph (Lk. 3:23); 3. woman (Gal. 4:4); 4. man (Lk. 3:38); 5. Bethlehem (Mt. 2:1); 6. Nazareth (Mt. 2:23); 7. four (Mk. 6:3); 8. Zero (Heb. 4:15); 9. Lamb (Jn. 1:36); 10. Omega (Rev. 21:6); 11. Finisher (Heb. 12:2); 12. Carpenter (Mk. 6:3); 13. Emmanuel (Mt. 1:23); 14. Sinners (Lk. 7:34); 15. High (Heb. 4:14).
COLORS: 1. Red (Rev. 12:3); 2. Green (Gen. 1:30); 3. Gold (Rev. 21:21); 4. Israel (Jacob) (Gen. 37:3); 5. Lydia (Acts 16:14); 6. Solomon (Song 5:11); 7. Zechariah (6:1-3); 8. Scarlet (Isa. 1:18); 9. Black (Rev. 6:12); 10. Whore of Babylon (Rev. 17:4,5); 11. Exodus (34 times); 12. White (Psa. 51:7); 13. Deborah/Barak (Jd. 5:10); 14. Red (Mt. 16:2); 15. Purple (Lk. 16:19).

Send your answers in! We'll grade and return all entries and randomly select one entrant to receive a new Bible, New Testament cassettes, or Bible Dictionary.



EXAMINE IT FOR YOURSELF

The Bible is both the best loved and most hated book on planet earth. In AD 303 the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and their Bibles. The persecution that followed was brutal. Over a burned and extinguished Bible, Diocletian built a monument on which he wrote these triumphant words: "Extincto nomine Christianorum" (the name Christian is extinguished). Diocletian fashioned a medal with the engraving, "The Christian religion is destroyed and the worship of the gods restored."

Diocletian's boast was premature—to say the least. Twenty-five years later Diocletian was dead, and the

new Emperor Constantine dedicated himself to put the New Testament in all of the churches of his empire. In fact, Constantine offered a sizeable reward to anyone who would deliver a copy of the Scriptures to him.

The next day Constantine was offered fifty copies of the Word of God. He then commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense. Can you imagine Diocletian's stunned countenance if he returned to the earth today to discover that more had been written about the Bible than about any other thousand volumes combined? The Bible has been translated into more languages than any other volume, and it has been sent into more regions of the earth than any other book.

French philosopher Voltaire (1694-1778) declared in 1776: "One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity seeker." One hundred years later Voltaire was dead, and his own house and press were being used to print and store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. In 1778, Voltaire bragged, "It took twelve men to start Christianity. One will destroy it." He called Christ "the cursed wretch." Geisler and Nix observe that "only fifty years after his death the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles." Moreover, approximately two hundred years after Voltaire's prediction that the Bible would be eliminated from the earth, a first edition of Voltaire's work sold in Paris for eleven cents. On that very same day, December 24, 1933, the British government purchased an ancient New Testament manuscript, *Codex Sinaiticus*, from the Czar of Russia for \$500,000. This ancient manuscript, dating about 350 A.D., is still highly prized and is on display in the British Museum.

Have you read the book that has caused such intense feelings? Why not start a habit of reading it regularly? If you read just four chapters a day, you'll complete the entire Bible in one year. Remember what John said: "Blessed is he that readeth.." (Rev. 1:3).

HOW MAY WE HELP YOU?

(CLIP AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS ON COVER)

- YES!** I want to learn more about the Bible. Please enroll me in a survey of the Bible study course.
- I would like a ride to Bible classes and/or worship services.
- I am interested in seeing the "Visualized Bible Study" Video Series.
- I would like a daily schedule for reading the entire Bible in a year.
- I would like to receive your weekly newsletter/bulletin.
- I would like to learn more about your Bible school.
- I would like to learn more about your programs and activities.
- I have a prayer request: _____
- I am interested in learning more about what God requires of me to be saved. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____

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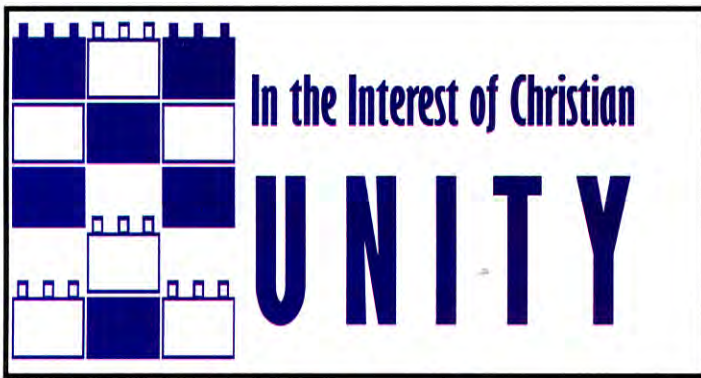
- Let Every Man Be Slow to Anger**
Biblical advice for those who are "on the edge."

FEATURED TRACTS:

Check the Bible subjects you want to study further (free):

- Send me this month's packet (new booklet/tracts plus these)
- HTH tract: What Teens Want (NEW!)
- The One True Church (Bible class/home poster)
- Why Should You Believe in Jesus?
- Daily Bible Reading Bookmark What About Angels?
- What is the church of Christ? How We Got the Bible
- Eternal Life Insurance Falling From Grace
- Where Would Jesus Worship? Choosing a Mate
- Holy Spirit Baptism Que es la Iglesia de Cristo
- The Case for the Existence of God
- Gambling: Pastime or Sure Bet for Poverty?
- How to Stay on Top of the World
- Is Weekly Communion a Scriptural Requirement
- Have You Ever Had Someone Close to You Die? (youth)
- What About the Thief on the Cross?
- Back issues of *House to House/Heart to Heart*
- Another topic:** _____

- Watered-down Baptism**
A New Look at an Old Subject



ALL THEY DO IS ARGUE



In an interview on Public Television, the interviewer noted to Madalyn Murray O'Hair that she seemed to have a lot of clout. He asked why she didn't organize the atheist movement better so as to be a stronger power. She responded with a telling answer: "Because every time a bunch of atheists get together, all they do is argue" (*Seeds Tape Ministry*).

Interesting...but before we become too judgmental, are we able to "cast the first stone?" Christian unity should always be demonstrated by believers seeking to please the same God (Psa. 133:1). We can unite upon the doctrines of Scripture (1 Cor. 1:10), God's plan of salvation (e.g., Acts 8:35-40), and worship that pleases the One who is worshipped (Jn. 4:24). Then, working in cooperation and love, we can extend the Gospel of Jesus Christ where it needs to go (Mk. 16:15,16).

POPULAR WITH ONE MAN



A railway gatekeeper, who one cold night required every passenger to show his ticket before passing through to the train, and was rewarded with considerable grumbling and protesting, was told: "You are a very unpopular man tonight." "I only care to be popular with one man," was the reply, "and that is the superintendent."

He might have pleased the passengers, disobeyed orders, and lost his position. He was too wise for that; his business was to please one man—the man who hired him, gave him his orders, rewarded him for faithfulness, and who would discharge him for disobedience.

The servant of Christ has many opportunities to make himself unpopular. For that matter, whole churches are caving in to social pressure. The multitudes want them to relax the strictness of God's Word. "No man can serve two masters" (Mt. 6:24). He who tries to be popular with the world, will lose his popularity with the Lord. He will make friends, but he will lose the one Friend who is above all others (Prov. 18:24; Mt. 11:19). He will win plaudits, but he will not hear the gracious words: "Well done!" (Mt. 25:21).

HE'S GOT A POINT

A business man who was well known for his ruthless behavior once told Mark Twain, "Before I die I mean to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I will climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments aloud at the top." Mark Twain said, "I have a better idea. You could stay in Boston and keep them."

"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" —Luke 6:46

JESUS—WAS OR IS?



Not all who read the Bible will say with that centurion at the foot of the cross, "Surely this was the Son of God" (Mt. 27:54). Much of the world has yet to say that. However, most of the world's population does believe there was once a man named Jesus.

Ask on the street of any major city if anyone believes in Jesus. Someone will say an enthusiastic *yes*. The question will take none by surprise, nor would the name of Christ be unfamiliar. Still, they are simply saying that they believe there once was a Jesus. They believe in Jesus the same way they believe in Genghis Khan or Marco Polo. They were merely agreeing with the record. Historically, the world has voted: there was a Jesus.

Christians are not interested in talking about the Jesus who *was*. They are interested only in the Christ who *is*. For Christians, it is not the Christ who once reckoned with Pilate that they find vital but the Christ who remains a contemporary of American presidents or British prime ministers. It is *this* Jesus that forty percent of Americans worship each Sunday.

JESUS IS COMING



I had an opportunity to work in a bakery while going to high school. I remember one day the telephone rang, and a lady answered it. She put it down like it was hot and yelled, "He's coming!" I wondered what in the world was going on? The ladies ran for their hair nets, and men ran for clean aprons and clean caps. The boss told me to sweep the floor and cover all the containers. There was a wild and excited look in his eyes. Everyone was running around like chickens with their heads cut off. I thought to myself, "*Who* is coming?"

Suddenly through the front door entered a man in a suit with a case under his arm. As I observed him he began to walk around and check the bakery for health hazards. I then realized that he was the state inspector for the Board of Health. After he left, everyone breathed a sigh of relief and went back to work. One lady told me that all the places of business always watched out for each other. The first one to see the inspector coming would call the other business. They had a system of warning.

When Jesus comes again there won't be time to prepare a speech on all the good things we have done. There won't be time to tell Him how our neighbors and friends hindered us in His service. There will be judgment: "So then each one of us shall give an account of himself before God" (Rm. 14:12). God will not accept our excuses nor will He give us time to repent. Today is the time to prepare ourselves for His coming.

Remember, "He is coming!"

—John A. Boor